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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

A radio discussion by Wallace Kadderly, Chief of Radio Service, and E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, presented during the Department of Agricultural portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, September 22, 1939.

iiiiiii

KADDERLY:

And now here's E. J. "Mike" Rowell with the highlights from two situation reports from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics: A report on dairy and one on livestock.

"Mike". What's the news on the dairy situation aside from the higher prices for butter that we have noticed in our Swing of the Markets? Butter prices have gone up a little, but of course, they usually start up in September.

Let's look ahead for the next few months. What sort of demand for his products may the dairy farmer expect?

ROWELL:

A better demand is expected this fall for all farm products than has been experienced during the last few months. With better business conditions, home makers will be able to buy more dairy products, - this increased demand means a more favorable outlook for the dairy farmer.

KADDERLY:

That's the outlook for demand for dairy products. Now what do you have to report on the production of dairy products?

ROWELL:

Milk production for the country as a whole on September 1 was almost a record for that date, and was about the same as a year ago. Housewives have been using more milk -- more fluid milk -- than they were a year ago. This means that less milk has been available for manufacture into dairy products.

KADDERLY:

Mike, - right on that point - does this mean a smaller movement of butter and cheese into storage than last year?

ROWELL:

Yes, it does, Wallace. The into-storage movement has been much less than last year. On September 1 of this year there were 14 percent fewer pounds of butter and 20 percent less cheese in storage.

KADDERLY:

Let's sum this up: Better demand for all kinds of dairy products is expected for the rest of this year; milk production has continued at an almost record high; and movement of butter and cheese into storage is less than last year.

And that brings us to the report on the livestock situation. We'll take hogs first.

(Over)

(9/22/39)

ROWELL:

Everything points to a fairly large seasonal increase in the number of hogs sent to market during the next few months. Looking still further ahead, the supply of hogs coming to market during the year which begins October 1 will be much larger than during the year just drawing to a close.

KADDERLY:

So much for hogs. What about the number of cattle coming to market?

ROWELL:

As we said several months ago, the slaughter supplies of grain-fed cattle will probably continue larger for the rest of 1939 and during the early part of 1940 than was the case a year earlier. But the total number of cattle slaughtered is expected to continue smaller than last year because fewer cows, heifers and grass-fed steers are being sent to market.

KADDERLY:

Next sheep and lambs?

ROWELL:

Not as many sheep and lambs are expected to be sent to slaughter this fall as were sent last fall. Growers in the Western States will probably send more sheep and lambs to market this fall than last, but more than usual of these will be sold as feeders --- that is to be fattened for slaughter later.

KADDERLY:

Allright. In comparison with last fall, more hogs and more grain-fed cattle will be sent to market during the rest of this year; but fewer cows, heifers, grass steers, sheep and lambs.

Now, a few words about feed supplies.

ROWELL:

Feed supplies for the coming feeding season are liberal in the Corn Belt. Production of some feed grains probably will be a little less than they were last year, but the carry-over of old corn will be one of record size. It is expected than when January 1 of next year arrives we will find 7 or 8 percent more grain consuming animals on farms. At the same time the total supply of feed grain and hay per animal during this coming season will be considerably above the average for the years before the 1934 drought.

KADDERLY:

These large feed supplies have caused a pretty good demand for feeder cattle and feeder lambs, haven't they?

ROWELL:

Yes, particularly in the Corn Belt. Shipments of both feeder cattle and feeder lambs in several Corn Belt States in July and August were much larger than in July and August of last year.

KADDERLY:

(Ad lib close. Wheat situation next Thursday).

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